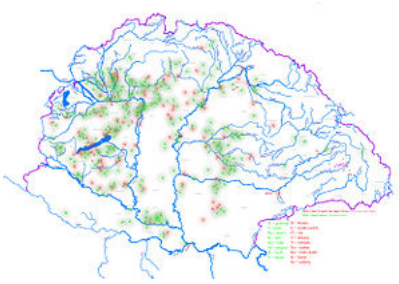
Magyar tribes

The **Magyar tribes** or **Hungarian clans** (Hungarian: *magyar törzsek*) were the fundamental political units within whose framework the Hungarians (Magyars) lived, until these clans from the region of Ural Mountains[1] invaded the Carpathian Basin and established the Principality of Hungary.[2][3]



The appearance of Hungarian tribe names in settlement names. It suggests where arriving Hungarians lived amongst other peoples and helped in reconstructing where arriving tribes settled

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Etymology

The ethnonym of the Hungarian tribal alliance is uncertain. According to one view, following Anonymus's description, the federation was called "Hetumoger" (Seven Magyars) (*"VII principales persone qui Hetumoger dicuntur"*, "seven princely persons who are called Seven Magyars"[4]), though the word "Magyar" possibly comes from the name of the most prominent Hungarian tribe, called *Megyer*. The tribal name "Megyer" became "Magyar" referring to the Hungarian people as a whole.[5][6][7] Written sources called Magyars "Hungarians" before the conquest of the Carpathian Basin when they still lived on the Steppes of Eastern Europe (in 837 "Ungri" mentioned by Georgius Monachus, in 862 "Ungri" by Annales Bertiniani, in 881 "Ungari" by the *Annales ex Annalibus Iuvavensibus*). The English term "Hungarian" is a derivative of the Latin "Ungri" or "Ungari" forms.

History

The Blood oath in Etelköz.

According to András Róna-Tas the locality in which the Hungarians, the *Manicha-Er* group, emerged was between the Volga river and the Ural Mountains.[1] Between the 8th and 5th centuries BC, the Magyars embarked upon their independent existence and the early period of the proto-Hungarian language began.[1]

Around 830 AD,[8][9] when Álmos was about 10 years old, the seven related tribes (*Jenő*, *Kér*, *Keszi*, *Kürt-Gyarmat*, *Megyer*, *Nyék* and *Tarján*)[10] formed a confederation[8] in Etelköz,[9] called *"Hétmagyar"* ("Seven Magyars"). Their leaders, the Seven chieftains of the Magyars, besides Álmos, included Előd, Ond, Kond, Tas, Huba and Töhötöm, who took a blood oath, swearing eternal loyalty to Álmos.[11] Presumably, the Magyar tribes consisted of 108 clans.[12]

The confederation of the tribes was probably led by two high princes: the *kende* (their spiritual ruler) and the *gyula* (their military leader). The high princes were either elected by the leaders of the tribes or appointed by the Khagan of the Khazars who had been exerting influence over the Magyars. Around 862 AD the seven tribes separated from the Khazars.

Before 881 AD three Turkic tribes rebelled against the rule of the Khagan of the Khazars, but they were suppressed. After their defeat they left the Khazar Empire and voluntarily joined the *Hétmagyar* confederation. The three tribes were organised into one tribe, called Kabar, and later they played the roles of vanguard and rear guard during the joint military actions of the confederation. The joining of the three tribes to the previous seven created the On-ogur (*Ten Arrows*),[10] one of the possible origins for the name *Hungarian*.

Social organization

The Hungarian social structure was of Turkic origin.[13]

Genetics

Magyars comprised seven clans and later three more clans made of Kabar people. Recent genetic research have shown that the first-generation Magyar core gene pool originated in Central Asia/South Siberia and, as Magyars were moving westward, admixing with additional strata of people of European origin, and people of the Caucasus. Burial samples of the Karos-Eperjesszög Magyars place them genetically closest to Turkic peoples, modern south Caucasian peoples, and modern Western Europeans to a limited degree, while no specific Finno-Ugric markers were found.[14] However, a 2008 study done on 10th century Magyar skeletons, indeed found a few Uralic samples.[15]

See also

- Álmos
- Grand Prince of the Hungarians
- Hungarians
- Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin
- Ügyek
- Zoltán of Hungary

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